

# MOUNTAINEER

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Sept. 22, 2006

## 'Universal' ID card part of federal security upgrades

by **Gerry J. Gilmore**  
*American Forces Press Service*

**WASHINGTON** — New identification cards to be issued to Defense Department employees beginning next month will help standardize work force identification and security access systems across the government, a senior Defense Department official said here Sept. 15.

The new common access card eventually will be issued to all federal employees and is part of a standardized, secure credentialing system that was mandated after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Mary Dixon, deputy director of the Defense Manpower Data Center in Arlington, Va., said during a joint interview with American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel.

Starting Oct. 27, the new "super CAC" ID cards will be issued to employees over the next three years as the old cards reach their expiration dates, she said.

The new cards interface with a secure, encrypted credentialing database and are

interoperable for personal identification as well as access to federal buildings and facilities, she said.

However, management will still determine who is authorized access to each facility, Dixon pointed out. Information embedded on the cards is quickly referenced and compared to centrally-stored personnel security clearance data, she said.

"It is an effort to try to improve the security in the federal government," Dixon explained. She also said that the new cards help employees secure their computer networks as well as provide improved security for federal buildings, military installations and campuses.

"I can use this card, not just in the Department of Defense, but it can be read in other agencies," Dixon said. "If they choose to give me access, they can then read my card," she said.

The new card features the employee's photograph, like other cards now in circulation, Dixon said.

But its computer chip also will contain two encrypted fingerprints, as well as a unique personal identification number.



Photo by Walt Johnson

## NFL welcome

National Football League referee Ron Winters, with the white hat, and members of his officiating crew took time out from their pre-game activities to say "thank you" to members of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Forward), 4th Infantry Division, that took part in the opening ceremonies for the Denver Broncos home opener against the Kansas City Chiefs Sunday at Invesco Field at Mile High Stadium in Denver. Many of the Soldiers participating in the event recently returned from a deployment to Iraq. They joined Airmen from Peterson Air Force Base, Sailors from Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora and Marines serving in the state of Colorado as the Broncos saluted the military in pre-game festivities. See the feature article on the unit's participation in the event on page 31.

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## Citizen-Soldiers vital to nation's defense, Army Secretary says

by **Sgt. Jim Greenhill**  
*Army News Service*

**ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.** — Citizen-Soldiers are vital to the nation's defense, and the National Guard is an essential part of the transformed Army of the 21st century, the secretary of the Army said here Sunday.

The National Guard is an integral and indispensable part of the total Army team," Francis Harvey told the 128th General Conference of the National Guard Association of the United States. "Quite simply, the nation and our Army could not execute its global commitment without the contributions of our citizen-Soldiers."

Harvey pledged to continue pushing for resources the National Guard needs to fulfill its mission. "I have and will continue to fight hard for the resources

needed to fully maintain, train and equip the total Army in general and the National Guard in particular," Harvey said.

The Guard is a key player in the war on terror, a war that Harvey said started long before Sept. 11, 2001.

"The terrorists were at war with America long before 9/11," the secretary said.

"They were on the offensive as early as 1983, attacking the Marines in Beirut; Mogadishu and the first Trade Center bombing in 1993; Khobar Towers in 1996; U.S. embassies in Africa in 1998 and the USS Cole in 2000 — well before 9/11."

Calling the War on Terrorism a long war, Harvey said the stakes are the nation's survival. "This war is something

See **Citizen-Soldier** on Page 4

### MUST SEE



Cute pets, kids.

See Pages 22-23.

# Today's Soldiers, Army fit, ready to fight

## U.S. Army Public Affairs response

The United States Army is the best in the world, primarily because of the uncompromising values of our Soldiers and the exemplary leadership of our commissioned and noncommissioned officers. They are the face of America that the world sees every day and in that role, they have clearly come through as the emissaries of a kind and just people. The nation and free people around the world sleep better because of the willingness of our Soldiers and officers to sacrifice everything so that others might live in peace and freedom. This is our Army today. It is imperative to provide our Soldiers and their families a quality of life and resources needed to fight and win today's wars.

On Sept. 13, two Congressmen held a press conference and released a document that contained a number of inaccuracies pertaining to Army readiness. The Department of the Army is currently reviewing this document to clarify the statements in this report. Several examples follow. This document contains many inaccurate statements about recruiting and retention including asserting that "the Army may fall short by about 1,000 recruits." The reality is the Army expects to meet that goal, the same goal as last year and the second highest goal since 1990, sometime this week.

Although accessions waivers have gone up recently, the category that increased is mainly misdemeanors. For the Active Army and Reserve, serious crime waivers remain below 1 percent, medical waivers have gone down and drug and alcohol waivers remain below 1 percent. Furthermore, drug and alcohol abuse has not "skyrocketed." For example, drug positive rates have decreased from 2.13 percent (fiscal 2002) to 1.91 percent (fiscal 2005).

There are also claims that "similar to last year, current data indicates that the Army is struggling to meet its re-enlistment goals for mid-termers." Actually, the Army re-enlisted 103 percent of its 2005 mid-term NCO goal and is on track to meet its 2006 goal. Two out of three Soldiers eligible to re-enlist continue to reenlist.

The information about Category IV recruits is

misleading. The Army has found that test-taking ability does have some correlation to trainability, but it does not measure loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, personal or courage. The Army builds its leaders from America's young people. They grow, learn and adapt to become tomorrow's leaders. The Army complies with the Department of Defense standard for allowable recruits from Category IV, which is 4 percent and continues to do so.

Every Soldier we recruit is fully qualified for the specialty they enlist for. These specific recruits, qualified in every way except they score in the 15th to 30th percentile on our aptitude batteries, have and continue to make excellent Soldiers. Currently, less than 4 percent of our recruits are in this category, while in the 1980s approximately 10 percent of recruits were in Category IV and that is the Army that triumphed in Desert Storm. Furthermore, only about 25 percent of today's American males are fully qualified to serve in their Army, yet more than 60 percent of our recruits score in the top 50th percentile.

The Army pays close attention to attrition rates and the attrition rate has markedly dropped since 2004. This positive trend is the result of outstanding leadership in the training base, commitment on the part of the cadre and new Soldiers to meet and exceed standards, and increased rigor and relevance in training. The Soldier graduating from Basic and Advanced Individual Training today is a better trained and prepared Soldier than has ever been put in the field — by any measurable standard.

The Army has increased rigor through training on 40 warrior tasks and 11 battle drills critical to success on today's battlefield. We've added combatives, weapon immersion, the wear of body armor, a new physical training program and extended field exercises.

And finally, Soldiers are ready to go into battle. Soldiers receive all the equipment required to execute their combat mission upon arriving into theater and assuming their area of responsibility.

We are an Army at war and there is a cost to war. The Army senior leadership, to include the secretary of the Army, the chief of staff of the Army and the vice chief of staff of the Army, has been

actively working with Congress on Army Readiness, modernization, reset, the Army Force Generation Process, recruiting and retention, to include many other important topics that are critical to the U. S. Army's ability to fight today's conflicts and address tomorrow's uncertainties. Through open testimony, responses to congressional requests, classified and closed session briefings to congressional members, caucuses and committees, we have sent and continue to send clear messages to request resources for our forces to remain ready to meet our nation's needs.

The following is a statement recently made by the chief of staff of the Army on July 26, in light of recent statements about the U.S. Army's readiness and budget realities during war:

*"Recently, there have been several public statements about the readiness of the U.S. Army. The Army has been at war for close to five years now and I am extremely proud of all of our Soldiers, civilians and families. We have asked a lot of them, from repetitive combat tours, to transforming the Army, to expanding our training base, to resetting our combat equipment. Simply put, this is the finest Army this nation has ever put into combat."*

*"Our Soldiers' collective efforts have been magnificent. I have testified to the facts about our readiness and I remain concerned about the serious demands we face. During my recent House Armed Services Committee testimony I made clear that the Army needed four things to address our readiness; 1) timely passage of a Defense Bill, 2) growth of the Army's Base Budget, 3) \$17.1 billion in supplemental funding for the Army's reset in fiscal year 2007, and 4) \$12-13 billion a year; for two to three years following this conflict, to reset the Army if we remain at the current level of consumption."*

*"The Army and the Defense Department staff are addressing these issues. The President, the Secretary of Defense and the Congress have worked very closely with the Secretary of the Army and me in the past, and I am confident we will have a way to meet the many challenges that lie ahead during these dangerous times."*

— Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker,  
Chief of Staff, U.S. Army

## POST TALK: How do you think the Army could be better prepared for the mission in Iraq?



*"I think the Army is doing a great job in creating more mobile units and training their Soldiers in urban warfare."*

**Sgt. Clint Stein**  
III Corps



*"They are already doing briefings and time off before deployments. The Army is doing its best with so little time."*

**Pvt. Sherese Henderson**  
Echo Company,  
1-9 Infantry, 2nd BCT,  
2nd Infantry Division



*"During my deployments, I saw the Iraqi army and police come a long way, but they need to make their own changes, now."*

**Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Butynski**  
2nd BCT (Forward),  
4th Infantry Division

### MOUNTAINEER

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# NEWS

## *Army Reserve announces new Regional Readiness Sustainment Commands*

*Army News Service*

**FORT MCPHERSON, Ga.** —The U.S. Army Reserve announced Sept. 15 that it will stand up four new Regional Readiness Sustainment Commands, continuing a transformation plan that was announced in September 2005.

As the four new organizations stand up, they will take the place of 10 Regional Readiness Command headquarters in providing “base support to Army Reserve units in their respective regions,” said Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, Chief of the Army Reserve.

“The result of this reshaping will be a more streamlined command and control structure and an increase in ready, deployable assets: An operational force to support the global war on terrorism,” Stultz explained.

The realignment will:

- Increase unit and Soldier readiness;
- Increase the availability of deployable units and Soldiers;
- Provide improved facilities and training;
- Streamline command and control;

- Increase the number of specialties available to support the Global War on Terrorism; and
- Improve Army Reserve business, resourcing, and acquisition processes.

The new 63rd, 81st, 88th and 99th Regional Readiness Sustainment Commands will begin their initial operating capability in phases throughout fiscal 2007 and will provide personnel, information management, facilities support and equipment support to the Army Reserve units in their respective geographic areas.

The current Regional Readiness Commands will disestablish in phases by fiscal 2009 as the RRSCs become fully operational, and new smaller commands will establish in place of many of the RRCs, Stultz said.

The 81st will be the first RRSC to begin IOC, projected for not later than first quarter of fiscal 2007. It will be organized at Fort Jackson, S.C., supporting a geographical area that includes Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Florida.

The 99th RRSC is being organized at Fort

Dix, N.J., and will support a geographical area that includes Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Vermont and Maine. Projected IOC for the 99th RRSC is not later than second quarter of fiscal 2007.

The 88th RRSC is being organized at Fort McCoy, Wis., with a projected IOC of not later than the fourth quarter of fiscal 2007. Its geographical area will include Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio.

The 63d RRSC is being organized at Moffett Field, Calif., and will be responsible for a geographical area that includes California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. Its projected IOC is not later than the fourth quarter of fiscal 2007.

**Editor's note:** Read upcoming editions of the *Mountaineer* for more on Army Transformation.



## Citizen-Soldier

From Page 1

that we did not ask for, but it is a war that we must win because the enemy's stated intent is to destroy our free and democratic way of life," he said.

The transformation of the Army — called "the Army plan" and including the National Guard as a core element of its success — is happening as the force wages a new type of conflict characterized by the necessity of continual adaptation and change, and an enemy more than happy to attack civilians, Harvey said.

The combined active Army, National Guard and Reserve face an operating environment of uncertainty, unpredictability, misinformation and misconception, he said.

Against that background, the vision of the transformed Army is "to remain the preeminent land power on Earth ... both ready to meet and relevant to the challenges of the dangerous and complex 21st century security environment," Harvey said.

"This is the largest redesign of the operational Army — active, Guard and Reserve — since the eve of World War II," the secretary told about 2,500 National Guard officers and others gathered for the

annual NGAUS conference.

At its heart is the infantry, armor or Stryker brigade combat team of 3,500 to 4,000 Soldiers. The active Army is scheduled to have 42 BCTs and the Guard 28. BCTs are organized the way they fight—self-sufficient and standardized.

"The overall number of BCTs goes up well over 40 percent, from 48 to 70," Harvey said. "What we're doing is taking the functionality that used to reside in the division and incorporating it into the BCT and transforming into a full-spectrum force that is a larger and more powerful, more flexible and — very importantly — more rapidly deployable force."

Other elements of the Army transformation that Harvey highlighted included:

- An Army National Guard changed from a strategic reserve to an operational force.
- An Army National Guard that mirrors the active-duty component. Borrowing from computer terminology, Harvey said the Guard should be "plug and play," meaning that citizen-Soldiers can be seamlessly incorporated with the active-duty force when necessary, since they are organized the same way and use the same equipment.
- \$39 billion in spending on National Guard equipment from 2005 through 2013.

• An Army National Guard of 350,000 citizen-Soldiers. "In this day and age, we all know we need 350,000 National Guard Soldiers to protect this country and to support the state missions," he said.

- Cohesive National Guard units. "We need to move away from cross-leveling of individuals and units into ad hoc forces," he said.
- Training and deployment that is more predictable for citizen-Soldiers, families and employers and allows for longer "dwell times" at home.
- Improved technology that increases the effectiveness of citizen-Soldiers and better protects them in close fighting.

The secretary singled out some areas for high praise.

He called the Army National Guard's recruiting success a "good news story" that demonstrates leadership, commitment and innovative thinking.

A year ago, the Guard was recruiting poorly. "They had a lousy year," Harvey said.

"Instead of crying in their soup, they upped the game," he recalled.

A year later, the generals are meeting the recruiting and retention goals they set, he said. "The Guard deserves a lot of credit.

"We are a values-based organization," the secretary said. "Let us never forget that."

# MILITARY

## 62nd Sapper Company completes service projects for Fort Carson community

**Story and photo by 2nd Lt. Todd Leeds**  
*4th Engineer Battalion*

Soldiers of the 62nd Sapper Company, 4th Engineer Battalion, are putting their best foot forward and working with the community to make the Mountain Post an even greater place to train, live and call home.

The 62nd Sapper Company is one of many new units assigned to Fort Carson and while the Soldiers don't officially unfurl the battalion guidon until Oct. 16, they have been busy making themselves known within the community as good stewards for enhancing community areas around post.

Soldiers of the 62nd Sapper Co have developed a mutually beneficial relationship with the civilians that work for the Directorate of Public Works.

The DPW is now able to complete many more projects on Fort Carson and, in turn, the Soldiers gain valuable experience working with concrete and various other aspects of horizontal and vertical construction.

Some of the many community projects the 62nd Sappers are working on include building two new handicap-accessible bus stops along O'Connell Boulevard and Barkeley Avenue, as well as repaving sidewalks in front of the 2nd

Infantry Division barracks and the former 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment Museum.

Staff Sgt. Joshua Cheatwood, project manager for one of the bus stops, said, "It's a great opportunity to give back to the community and it's fantastic training for the newer Soldiers to get to work with concrete."

Also at the job site was Tony Haag, a civil engineering technician and liaison from DPW. "It's great when Soldiers and DoD (Department of Defense) personnel can work together to improve post and build good relations," Haag said.

The 62nd Sapper Co and DPW first became acquainted when it was brought to the attention of DPW that a handicapped-accessible bus stop was needed for a vision impaired civilian employee, Gloria Bradler, who works at ENVISION Express on post.

"It was very difficult to walk through the rocks to find the bus stop after I got off work everyday, so I consider it a blessing to have a paved walk way. It makes life just a little bit nicer," Bradler said.

"The post lost its troop construction projects capabilities when the 52nd Engineer Battalion left a few years ago," explained Ed



*Soldiers of the 62nd Sapper Company, 4th Engineer Battalion, work on various on-post projects including repaving sidewalks in front of the 2nd Infantry Division barracks and the former 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment Museum.*

# Military briefs

## Miscellaneous

**Vehicle Registration closure** — The Vehicle Registration Field Office located at Gate 1 will be closed Thursday from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**Finance in and out processing** — The in and out processing section of finance has consolidated its operations on the second floor of bldg 1218. Travel and accessions moved from the first floor of bldg 1218 to the second floor.

Customers for in and out processing should go to room 230 in bldg 1218, sign in and wait for a technician. Phone numbers remain the same: Separations 526-8473/8476/1302; retirement 526-4233/4234/8470; travel 526-9930/0507/0475; accessions 526-8479/8236/4558; and chief of in and out processing 526-6230.

**ACAP relocation** — The Army Career and Alumni Program Center has moved to bldg 1117, room 114. Soldiers should use the southwest entrance. Hours of operation are 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Veterans Administration relocation** — The VA is now located in bldg 6220 on the first floor.

**Harmony in Motion auditions** — Harmony in Motion will hold auditions for the noncommissioned officer in charge position as well as sopranos, altos, tenors and basses. Auditions will be held daily at the Freedom Performing Arts Center, bldg 1129, from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. Visit the Web site at [www.carson.army.mil/harmony](http://www.carson.army.mil/harmony) for more information.

**Casualty and Mortuary Affairs offices move** — Fort Carson's Casualty and Mortuary Affairs offices have moved to bldg 1218, rooms 164, 165 and 168. Telephone numbers remain the same.

**TSP Pilot** — Let the Thrift Savings Plan Pilot take the guesswork out of your TSP fund choice decisions (including the new L funds).

TSP Pilot's investment analysts give you optimized fund balance allocations you can plug into your TSP account Web site to maximize returns. A free issue is available.

Please allow a few moments for the page to fully load: <http://TSP-pilot.com>.

**Environmental Health training** — The Environmental Health section of Preventive Medicine offers heat category monitoring training, food service sanitation training and classes on hot and cold weather injuries, sexually transmitted diseases, hearing conservation and medical threat briefings. For more information on these classes call 526-7922 or 524-2238.

**DPW services** — The Directorate of Public Works is responsible for a wide variety of services on Fort Carson. Services range from repair and maintenance of facilities to equipping units with a sweeper, and cleaning motor pools. Listed below are phone numbers and points of contact for services:

- Facility repair/service orders — KIRA service order desk at 526-5345. Use this number for emergencies or routine tasks.

- Refuse/trash — Call Kandy Clark at 526-9243 when needing trash containers, trash is overflowing

or emergency service is required.

- Facility custodial services — Call Larry Haack at 526-9237 for service needs or to report complaints.

- Elevator maintenance — Call Sharon Gayle at 526-1695.

- Motor pool sludge removal/disposal — Call Kandy Clark at 526-9243.

- Repair and utility/self-help — Call Gary Grant at 526-5844. Use this number to obtain self-help tools and equipment or a motorized sweeper.

- Base operations contract Contracting Officer Representative — Call Terry Hagen at 526-9262 for reporting wind damage, snow removal concerns, damaged traffic signs or other facility damage.

- Portable latrines — Call Kandy Clark at 526-9243 to request latrines, for service or to report damaged or overturned latrines.

## CIF Hours

### Regular business hours

The Central Issue Facility has changed its operating hours. The CIF is no longer open to Soldiers on Fridays. Soldiers may make appointments by calling 526-3321. Listed below are the new operating hours.

### Inprocessing

Monday-Thursday from 7:30-10:30 a.m.

### Initial issues

Monday-Thursday from 12:30-3 p.m.

### Partial issues

Monday-Thursday from 12:30-3 p.m.

### Cash sales/report of survey

Monday-Thursday from 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

### Direct exchange

Monday-Thursday from 12:30-3 p.m.

### Partial turn-ins

Monday-Thursday from 12:30-3 p.m.

### Full turn-ins

Monday-Thursday 7:30-10:30 a.m.

### Unit issues and turn-ins

Call 526-5512/6477 for approval.

### Hours of operation

**Education Center hours of operation** — The Mountain Post Training and Education Center's hours are as follows:

- **Counselor Support Center** — Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Friday, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

- **Learning Resource Center** — Monday through Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; and training holidays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

- **Defense Activity for Nontraditional Education Support and Advanced Personnel Testing** — Monday-Friday 7:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:15-4:15 p.m.; closed training holidays.

- **Basic Skills Education Program/Functional Academic Skills Training** — Monday-Thursday 1-4 p.m.; closed training holidays.

- **eArmyU Testing** — Monday-Friday, 12:15-4:15 p.m.; closed training holidays.

**Military Occupational Specialty Library** — Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-

5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; and training holidays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Legal Assistance hours** — Operating hours for the Legal Assistance Office are Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Friday from 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.

**Claims Division hours** — The Claims Division office hours are Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. and closed federal and training holidays.

To make a claim, Soldiers must attend a mandatory briefing, which is given Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

At the briefing, Soldiers must submit a Department of Defense Form 1840/1840R. Submit completed claims Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**DFAC hours** — Fort Carson dining facilities operate under the following hours:

**Wolf Inn** — Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m. (breakfast), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch) and 4:30-6:30 p.m. (dinner). Weekend hours are 7:30-9 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4:30-6 p.m.

**Butts Army Airfield** — Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m. (breakfast), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch) and 4:30-6:30 p.m. (dinner). This DFAC is closed weekends.

**Patton Inn** — Monday-Friday 7:30-9 a.m. (breakfast), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch) and 5-7 p.m. (dinner). Weekend hours are 7:30-9 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4:30-6 p.m.

**10th SFG** — Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m. (breakfast), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch) and 4:30-6 p.m. (dinner). This DFAC is closed weekends.

## Briefings

**Special Forces briefings** — will be held Wednesdays at bldg 1217, room 305, from 10-11 a.m., noon-1 p.m. and 5-6 p.m.

Soldiers must be E4-E6 from any military occupational specialty; have a general technical score of at least 100; be a U.S. citizen; score 229 or higher on the Army Physical Fitness Test; and pass a Special Forces physical. Call 524-1461 or visit the Web site at [www.bragg.army.mil/sorb](http://www.bragg.army.mil/sorb).

**ACAP briefing** — The Army Career and Alumni Program preseparation briefing is required for all departing service members. Current ACAP policy requires personnel ending time in service to register one year out and retirees two years out. ACAP preseparation briefings are held Monday-Friday from 7:30-9 a.m.

Attendees should report to ACAP by 7:15 a.m., bldg 1117, room 114. Call 526-1002 to schedule the briefing.

**ETS briefing** — ETS briefings for enlisted personnel will be held the first and third Tuesday of each month until further notice.

Briefing sign-in begins at 7 a.m. at bldg 1042, room 310. Briefings will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.

Soldiers must be within 120 days of their ETS but must attend the briefing no later than 30 days prior to their ETS or start date of transition leave. Call 526-2240 for more information.



## Trans company deploys

*1st. Sgt. Robert L. Mireault, front left, Spc. Daniel Schwartzengraber, with guidon, and the 32nd Transportation Company, 68th Corps Support Battalion salute during their deployment ceremony Sept. 13. The 32nd is deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.*

Photo by Michael J. Pach

# Date festival marks successful harvest

Story and photo by  
Sgt. Zach Mott

3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team

**BAQUBAH, Iraq** — Diyala farmers celebrated one of the most prosperous date harvests in several years with a festival in the provincial capital of Baqubah Sept. 18.

The date crop was bolstered by a joint project in which the Iraqi government and coalition forces in May executed a crop spraying campaign with helicopters piloted by Moldova and Bulgaria citizens to prevent insect infestation.

"In previous years there has been a severe infestation of the dubas bug,"

said Capt. Mark Cassill, executive officer, 404th Civil Affairs Battalion which is attached to the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

"Tiny dates were produced and they could only be sold as animal feed," said Cassill.

Because the dates could only be sold as animal feed, it cut the amount of money farmers were able to earn. This year, however, date production was up at least 50 percent across the board, and dates are now fit for human consumption. This also means that farmers are able to charge more for their produce.

Abdul Aziz Abbas Mohammed, who was judged by provincial officials

to be the best farmer in Diyala Province, saw his crop total increase by 85 percent over last year's take.

"We're optimistic that next year the crops will be a lot more (productive) and better," Mohammed said through an interpreter, speaking about the success of this year's spraying campaign.

He also said that he hopes plans are being made for next year's campaign to maximize the date yield.

Cassill said that the Iraqi government is planning next season's spraying using Iraqi-owned helicopters and pilots funded by the Iraqi government.

Those in attendance at the festival had the chance to sample numerous dates from various farms throughout the province as well as purchase crafts made from date palms.

Members of the Diyala government and agriculture departments spoke about the successful crop harvest as well as the need to continue to develop the province's largest money-earning resource.

"I would like to thank the people and the government who worked on the spraying campaign, and we wish for more support so the farmers will believe that the government cares about their needs," Mohammed said.

## Commissary says avoid bagged fresh spinach

American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** — In response to an alert from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Defense Commissary Agency is advising its customers not to eat any bagged fresh spinach. The FDA alert, dated Sept. 14, warns that the bagged spinach "may be a possible cause" of the confirmed outbreak of E. coli.

"The health and safety of our patrons and employees is always a top priority with the Defense Commissary Agency," Patrick B. Nixon, the agency's director, said. "We urge everyone to take this alert seriously and avoid any consumption of bagged spinach. We also advise everyone to continue to monitor their local media and the Food Safety area of our Web site, [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com), for more information."

As a precaution, in light of the FDA advisory, DeCA has directed its commissaries to immediately remove from their shelves all fresh spinach and any salad mix that contains spinach as an ingredient.

E. coli O157:H7 can cause diarrhea and, in some cases, lead to kidney failure through a condition known as Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome. HUS particularly affects young children and the elderly. In more severe cases,

Abdul Aziz Abbas Mohammed speaks to a festival attendee about his date harvest during the Diyala Date Festival in Baqubah, Iraq, Sept. 18.







Photos by Michael J. Pach

## In memoriam

*A memorial ceremony was held Sept. 15 for Sgt. Randle D. White, Forward Support Company, 1st Battalion, 67th Armored Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Forward), 4th Infantry Division. Randle passed away Sept. 7 in a non-combat related incident.*

# USNORTHCOM institutes podcasting service

*United States Northern Command  
Public Affairs Office*

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.**—United States Northern Command began podcasting news about homeland defense and civil support to military and civilian audiences worldwide Sept. 13, according to Michael B. Perini, director of Public Affairs for the North American Aerospace Defense Command and USNORTHCOM.

Perini introduces the USNORTHCOM podcasting service in its first episode, available at: [www.northcom.mil/pc\\_pod/podcast/index.htm](http://www.northcom.mil/pc_pod/podcast/index.htm).

"I think it's a very important responsibility for the command to keep people informed about our purpose and activities. Instituting this podcast is another way to accomplish this critical mission," Perini said.

Podcasting is a method of publishing audio broadcasts via the Internet, allowing users to subscribe to a feed of new files

(usually MP3s). Subscribers can listen to these files on their computers, or load them on to MP3 players.

Podcasting is distinct from other types of online media delivery because of its subscription model. Listeners can subscribe to feeds using free "podcatching" software, which periodically checks for and downloads new content automatically. The USNORTHCOM feed is available at no cost at its Web site, [www.northcom.mil](http://www.northcom.mil).

USNORTHCOM was established in 2002 following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

USNORTHCOM conducts operations to deter, prevent and defeat threats and aggression aimed at the United States, its territories and interests within its assigned area of responsibility; and as directed by the president or secretary of defense, provides defense support of civil authorities, including consequence management operations.

## Sappers

From Page 5

Whitcraft, director of DPW, "so we were behind on projects we would have liked to accomplish. Now that the 4th Engineer Battalion is here, we can pick these types of projects back up and save the post millions of dollars and get the Soldiers some great project experience."

As the installation begins to fill up with Soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division, Soldiers of the 4th Eng Bn should find no shortage of work to train Soldiers and improve the quality of life here at the Mountain Post.

## Spinach

From Page 8

HUS can lead to serious kidney damage and possible death.

Thus far, one death and eight cases of HUS have been linked to the E. coli outbreak.

In all, some 50 cases of illness have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The FDA has identified the outbreak in eight states: Connecticut, Idaho, Indiana, Michigan, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah and Wisconsin.

Contact your local health care provider immediately if you believe you may have symptoms of E. coli.

**Editor's note:** Cases of E. coli have also been found in Colorado.

# COMMUNITY

## Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

Story and photos by  
Michael J. Pach

Mountaineer staff

Hispanic heritage month began at the Mountain Post with a celebration at the Special Events Center Sept. 15 featuring a concert by Tejano band, Nuestra Familia.

Nuestra Familia from Greeley entertained guests for two hours with Hispanic music and gave the crowd the opportunity to dance. It was the band's first show on a military installation, and band members said they were excited about the chance to give something back to Soldiers.

One of the highlights of the night was when Sgt. 1st Class Ricardo Herrera, 3/61 Cavalry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, joined the band for a couple of songs. Herrera played the accordion to some fan favorites.

The celebration was sponsored by the Equal Opportunity Office and Rose Avila of the EO Office coordinated the event. Avila said Soldiers wanted a more festive event than the usual luncheon to celebrate Hispanic heritage. Avila said she and the rest of the EO Office listened and brought in one of the best Tejano bands in Colorado.

The Hispanic heritage celebration

is one of seven observances the EO Office schedules throughout the year to recognize the diversity of the Fort Carson community.

"The more we open the community to our different families, the more the community benefits because we will work better together," said Sgt. 1st Class Jose Colon, assistant equal opportunity advisor.

Hispanic heritage month runs from Sept. 15, Mexico's independence day, through Oct. 15.



**Above:** Sgt. 1st Class Ricardo Herrera, 3/61 Cavalry 2nd BCT, left, joins Nuestra Familia on stage. Also pictured are singer Steve Hernandez and bassist Jimmy Vilanueva.  
**Left:** Guests of the Hispanic heritage celebration dance to the Tejano sounds of Nuestra Familia.



## Fall Fest — 'Good for what ails ya'

### Scheduled Events

- 10-11 a.m.: Music show
- 11:15 - 11:45 a.m.: Magic show
- Noon - 12:45 p.m.: Incredible Circus
- 1- 2 p.m.: Music show
- 2:15 - 2:45 p.m.: Magic show
- 3:00 - 3:45 p.m.: Incredible Circus
- 3:45 - 4 p.m.: Wrap-up

### Ongoing Activities

- Juggling demonstrations and teaching
- Magic demonstrations and teaching
- Palm reading
- Tarot card reading
- Medieval combat and armor displays
- Mechanical bull rides
- Pony rides
- Hay rides
- Crafts for kids
- Target shooting

by Michael J. Pach  
Mountaineer staff

The Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosts its annual Fall Fest Saturday at Turkey Creek Ranch. This year's theme is that of an old-fashioned traveling medicine show complete with activities and entertainment that many people have never seen.

"This is a theme that hasn't been done before," said Ann Edinger of the DMWR Community Events Division. "This year's Fall Fest is one of the most unusual events we've done and it will feature some very interesting talent."

Jim Jackson, clown and ringmaster of the Incredible Circus, is only one of the many sources of talent due to perform. His show features unique clown, mime, juggling and comedy acts and will run twice. "Jim is certain to bring something interesting to the event," Edinger said.

Mark Weidhaas, also known as Inspector Magic, will perform illusions and magic and provide instructional demonstrations between performances. Eric West will lead interactive music shows using toys and instruments from around the world.

For those who want to get medieval, the Mercenaries Medieval Combat Guild will conduct combat and armor displays throughout

the day. The Mercenaries are an organization dedicated to safely recreating medieval combat, and children will have the opportunity to try on armor supplied by the group.

Admission to Fall Fest is free, but there is a \$1 charge for some of the activities like pony and hay rides. A booth will be set up where guests can purchase tickets for these activities. Food booths will be fully stocked with lots of goodies and some unique items like a snake-oil drink.

There will also be an area set up for crafts. Kids will be able to make magic wands, tiaras, crowns, watercolor paintings and other works of art.

Turkey Creek Ranch is located 10 miles south of Gate 1 on Highway 115. Plenty of parking is available on site, and DMWR workers and volunteers will be directing visitors to the parking areas. Look for the signs and the large circus tent. For more information, call 526-4494.

In one word, Edinger describes this year's Fall Fest as "eclectic."





# Community briefs

## Miscellaneous

### Switch from air-conditioning to heating —

Fort Carson Support Services will begin the seasonal transition from cooling to heating Oct. 2. Tentative transition schedule is subject to change as weather dictates. Oct. 2-6 — child care centers, medical buildings, community service facilities and dining facilities. Oct. 10-17 — living quarters and all buildings located in the following blocks: 800, 900, 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 1600, 1800, 1900, 2000, 2100, 2200, 2300, 2400, 2500, 2600 and 9000. Oct. 18-26 — warehouses, motor pools and all remaining buildings. For more information contact FCSS at 526-5345 or Terry Hagen at 526-9262.

### Fort Carson Fire Fighters Association

**donations-only carwash** — Special Events Center, Sept. 30-31, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Ten percent of profits will go to various local support groups, the remainder will benefit the Fort Carson Fire Fighters Association.

### Mattress and box spring give-away —

The Doubletree Hotel, World Arena, at 1775 E. Cheyenne Mountain Blvd., will be giving away queen size box springs and mattresses Sept. 24 and 28, and Oct 1 and 4. First-come, first-served basis only.

### Jewish High Holy Day worship —

Temple Beit Torah, 522 E. Madison, Colorado Springs, a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, welcomes all to its High Holy Day worship. Services include Union and Reform Judaism. Today an evening service will be held at 8 p.m., on Saturday a children's service at 10 a.m. and a morning service at 11 a.m.

Yom Kippur will be celebrated with a Kol Nidre service Oct. 1 at 8 p.m. On Oct. 2, a children's service will be held at 10 a.m.; a morning service at 11 a.m.; a study session at 1:30 p.m.; an afternoon service at 2:30 p.m.; a memorial service at 4 p.m.; a concluding service at 4:45 p.m.; and break-the-fast will be held at 5:30 p.m. For more information call Marilyn Conn at 573-0841 Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

### PMO may have your bike —

The Fort Carson Provost Marshal's Office has collected a number of lost or stolen bicycles belonging to residents. If you've lost a bicycle, contact the Fort Carson Military Police Station for an appointment to view bicycles. Bikes not claimed in the next 30 days will be given to several local nonprofit organizations. For more information call 526-2053.

### Job openings —

Fountain-Fort Carson School District Eight has openings for food service workers and drivers. For more information call 382-1334 or apply in person at 11355 Old Pueblo Road in Fountain.

**"Family Day — A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children"** — is held the fourth Monday of September each year. The Department of Defense Education Activity, the Defense Commissary Agency and other military affiliated organizations are partnering to support the event.

Military families can register to win a trip to New York for a healthy dinner prepared by renowned Food Channel Chef Sandra Lee. The contest will be conducted online through Sept. 30. Access the link via the commissary Web site at [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com). Commissary customers can find contest information at stores.

**Sewing/quilting opportunity** — Learn to sew or share your quilting experience the first, third and fourth Wednesday of each month from 9 a.m.-noon at Colorado Springs First Baptist Church. Free babysitting and lunch are provided. Call 578-0746 or 598-0993 for more information.

**Ongoing road closures** — Portions of Specker Avenue and Titus Boulevard will be closed until April. Questions about the closure or disruption of traffic along Butts Road can be addressed to Fort Carson's Directorate of Public Works Traffic Engineer, Rick Orphan at 526-9267, or Fort Carson's Army Corps of Engineers Transformation Resident Office, Maj. John Hudson at 526-4974.

**Teen Scene** — Evans Army Community Hospital hosts a program for teenage mothers and moms-to-be the second Wednesday of each month in the third floor conference room. For more information call Rhonda Tulensa at 526-7030 or Carissa Sullivan at 526-7090.

**Sustainability conference** — Fort Carson's fifth annual Community Sustainability Conference and Exposition will be held Nov. 8-9. The topic is "Gaining Irreversible Momentum for Regional Sustainability." An ice breaker will be held Nov. 8, and the conference will be held Nov. 9. Visit the Web site at <http://sems.carson.army.mil>. Register for the conference on the Web site.

**Prevention of hantavirus urged** — The recent death of a man camping in El Paso county is a reminder of the threat hantavirus poses to the region's residents.

Hantavirus is a serious viral illness caused when people breathe in the dried urine, feces or saliva of infected deer mice. Deer mice and hantavirus are common in El Paso county. Some steps to avoid coming into contact with the virus include:

- Rodent-proof homes and buildings to keep mice out.
- Eliminate rodent food supplies and hiding places.
- When cleaning rodent-infested structures use special precautions such as airing out rodent-infested buildings or areas at least 30 minutes before cleaning.
- Do not sweep or dry vacuum rodent contaminated surfaces.
- Use a solution of household bleach (one cup per gallon of water) to disinfect area. Wear disposable gloves and mask when cleaning.
- When camping or sleeping outdoors, avoid sleeping near rodent droppings or burrows. Sleep in tents with floors, above ground or on a ground cloth.

For more information visit the Web site at [www.elpasocountyhealth.org](http://www.elpasocountyhealth.org) or call 578-3199.

**Hypertension class** — Do you have high blood pressure? Do you want to lower your risk of heart disease?

A hypertension class is presented every other Thursday from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Mountain Post Wellness Center, bldg 1526. To register or for more information call 526-7022. The class is presented by Disease Management and Nutrition Care.

**Post Traumatic Stress help** — "LZ Calvary" is a small group Bible study and support group for veterans experiencing the effects of post traumatic stress disorder. Join a group of veterans who are experienced in combat-related problems and who have successfully dealt with the memories and effects of combat as we work through PTSD-related problems through the study of God's word, fellowship and group discussion. Meetings are held Mondays at 10 a.m. at Grace Brethren Church, 2975 Jet Wing Dr. Call Robert P. Schaffer at 390-8096 or 510-6009.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** — Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are held at the Colorado Inn, bldg 7301, room 203, at 7 p.m. Wednesdays. For more information call 322-9766 or 471-1625.

**West Nile Virus precautions** — Post residents should eliminate mosquito breeding sites on post by removing standing water in ponds, gutters, flower

**ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE**  
**ACS**  
Real-Life Solutions for Successful Army Living  
**Army Community Service**  
Family Readiness Center, Bldg 152  
TEL: (719) 526-4590

Sponsored by the Fort Carson New Parent Support Program (NPPS)



5 weeks of fall activities for children 18 months to 3 years

**Every Thursday**  
(19 October to 16 November)  
**10:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.**  
**Family University, Building 1161**

Games, Crafts, Songs, Stories,  
Pumpkin Activities and Thanksgiving Fun



To register, call (719) 526-4590 between 8:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. or leave a message at (719) 526-6440



pots, cans, tires and puddles, as well as garden equipment, toys and pool covers. Water in birdbaths and wading pools should be changed weekly.

Dead birds should be reported to Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management at 526-5141 during duty hours or military police at 526-2333 during nonduty hours.

**Plague watch** — The Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management issued a plague watch July 20 as a result of excessive prairie dog die-off in several colonies near Butts Army Airfield and to the west along Wilderness Road. Until further notice, residents are advised to stay clear of the areas around Butts Army Airfield and Wilderness Road.

Plague is a disease transmitted primarily through the bite of infected fleas. Prairie dogs, wood rats and other species of ground squirrels and chipmunks can carry infected fleas. The fleas also move easily from wild animals to domestic pets.

Report dead animal findings to DECAM Pest Control at 526-5141 or the Wildlife Office at 524-5393/5394.

**Claims against the estate** — Those with claims of indebtedness to the estate of Sgt. Randle White, deceased, should contact 1st Lt. Christian Hasbach at 524-4441.

• Those with claims of indebtedness to the estate of Pfc. Nicholas A. Madaras, deceased, should contact 1st Lt. Jared W. Souder at 330-3547.



# Chaplain reflects on climbing namesake mountain

Commentary by Chap.  
(Maj.) Karen Meeker

43rd Area Support Group

There I was on Labor Day climbing the Loft Route to the Summit of Mount Meeker in Rocky Mountain National Park. A dream from many years ago now coming to fruition — climbing my “namesake” mountain. The mountain was named after Nathan Meeker, who came from back East with Horace Greeley in 1850 to start a community based on Christian principles.

Working as an Indian agent with the Ute Indians, his attempt at making the Utes into farmers caused an uprising. Nathan was on the wrong side of a massacre and was killed. I hoped the same fate would not await me on this day.

Spencer Johnston, my climbing partner, and I started on the trailhead of Longs Peak at 4:15 a.m. with temperatures in the 30s. Four miles and two hours later, the sun was just beginning to appear on the horizon as we turned left at Stinky Point, where the outhouse is located, and headed toward Chasm Lake.

Mount Meeker and Longs Peak looked down on us as we took our first views of the looming peaks. Ship’s Prow lay on the right and Flying Buttresses to the left, and the Loft Route went up the middle with class-three climbing and scrambling.

My prayers were more fervent as the climbing, though not too difficult, had a good deal of exposure. We would find out later that a man had fallen

800 feet to his death the day before. I was glad not to know that bit of news at the time.

When Spencer spotted the Ledge at about 13,300 feet, I gave the Lord a heartfelt thanks. If climbers find the Ledge, the final stretch to the Loft, the saddle between Meeker and Longs, is an easy stroll. If the Ledge is not found, well, it’s another 50 feet of exposed class three climbing.

On top of the Loft, we soon found the beaten path to the summit of Meeker, which rises 13,911 feet. On Knife’s Edge, we carefully navigated our way to the summit rock for pictures and to sign the log. As we munched on breakfast while basking in the morning sun, we rejoiced in the spectacular views from Colorado’s

premier thirteener. I was glad to have climbed Mount Meeker and to know it was hard ... as it should be.

There is something satisfying about bagging a summit. It’s you versus the weather, altitude, terrain, gravity and possibly some critters. It’s the solitude, a chance to be away from the phone, e-mail and other responsibilities ... to enjoy the rest that only comes after a hard effort.

Psalms 103 gave expression to my thoughts, “Praise

*the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits — who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s” (verses 2-5).*

Fourteen hours after we stepped off, we returned to our parked vehicles having successfully climbed two peaks. We thanked God for our health, the great weather and a safe climb. May the Lord bless you with a mountaintop experience this weekend. Rest awhile away from the reach of electronic devices and know the awesomeness of God’s goodness.



## Chapel

**PWOC fall studies** — Protestant Women of the Chapel meet Tuesdays from 9-11:30 a.m. at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel. Child care is provided free at the hourly day care center. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services. Fall studies begin in September and include several selections. Contact Amy West for information on child care at 393-1390. For information on PWOC call Barb Styles at 598-0422. A special room for home-schooled children is also offered.

**New Protestant Communion service** — The new Protestant Communion service, previously held at Prussman Chapel at 8 a.m. Sundays, has combined with the Protestant service at Provider Chapel at 9 a.m.

**Protestant Sunday school** — "Where Kids Dare to Live Their Faith" classes for all ages are under way. This year's program is musical, energetic and fast-paced. Two adult Bible studies are also being offered.

**AWANA** — AWANA teaches children that God is real and that he loves them. AWANA clubs give children clear guidance in a world full of conflicting messages. AWANA is an international, nondenominational organization with a goal to reach children with the gospel of Christ and train them to serve him. The Fort Carson AWANA Club meets Thursday at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel from 5-7 p.m. Adult and teen volunteers are needed. For details call Stacy Chapman at 382-3970.

**Catholic religious education** — Classes are under way. Registration is ongoing at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel.

## Chapel Schedule

### ROMAN CATHOLIC

Day	Time	Service	Chapel	Location	Contact Person
Mon., Wed., Fri.	noon	Mass	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Fr. Gagliardo/526-7412
Tues., Thurs.	noon	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Goellen/526-5769
Saturday	5 p.m.	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Goellen/526-5769
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Goellen/526-5769
Sunday	10:30 a.m.	CRE	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Pat Treacy/524-2458
Sunday	11 a.m.	Mass	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Fr. Gagliardo/576-7412
Sunday	11 a.m.	Mass	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Goellen/526-5769
Tuesday	7 p.m.	RCIA	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Pat Treacy/524-2458
Saturday	4 p.m.	Reconciliation	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Goellen/526-5769

### PROTESTANT

Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Chap. Cartee/526-7387
Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant Communion	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Mitchell/650-8042
Sunday	11 a.m.	Protestant	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Nicholas/526-8011
Sunday	11 a.m.	Prot.-Gospel	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Borden/526-4206
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sun. School	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Borden/526-4206
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sun. School	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Dr. Scheck/526-5626
Tuesday	9 a.m.	PWOC	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Nicholas/526-8011
Sunday	11 a.m.	Contemporary	Veterans'	Magrath & Titus	Chap. Fritts/526-8890
Tuesday	7 p.m.	PYOC	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Ms. Scheck/231-9511
Sunday	9 a.m.	Samoa	Veterans'	Titus	Chap. Fritts/526-3888

### JEWISH

For information and a schedule of Jewish Sabbath services, call the U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel at 333-2636.

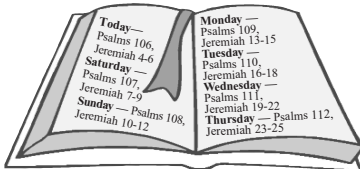
### WICCA

Monday	6:30 p.m.	bldg 4800, corner of Harr and O'Connell	Rhonda Helfrich/338-9464
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### NATIVE AMERICAN SWEATLODGE

Native American Sweatlodge ceremonies (He Ska Akicita Inipi) are offered to military dependents and Department of Defense personnel. These lodges are traditional Lakota spiritual ceremonies for cleansing, purification and prayer, and are fully sanctioned and supported by the Fort Carson Chaplain Command. Please call the following for information and directions: Charlie Erwin at 382-8177; or Zoe Goodblanket 442-0929. The next lodge is Sunday at noon.

**Daily Bible readings:** To assist in regular scripture reading, the following scriptures are recommended. These scriptures are part of the common daily lectionary, which is designed to present the entire Bible over a three-year cycle.



**The Army Cycle of Prayer** — Please pray this week for the following:

**Unit:** For the Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and leaders of the Joint Chiefs of Staff located at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

**Army:** For Lt. Gen. (Dr) Kevin C. Kiley, surgeon general of the Army and commander of U.S. Army Medical Command, and the military and civilian personnel who work in the Office of the Surgeon General.

**State:** For the Soldiers and families from the state of Kentucky. Pray also for Gov. Ernie Fletcher, the state legislators

and municipal officials of the Bluegrass State.

**Nation:** For Stephen Hadley, national security advisor to the president of the United States. Pray also for the personnel who work in the office of the National Security Council.

**Religious:** For the Jewish members of the Army family as they prepare for Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement on Oct. 2.

For more information on the Army Cycle of Prayer, or to pray for items from previous weeks, visit the Web site at [www.usarmychaplain.com](http://www.usarmychaplain.com).

## Fort Carson Fire Department employee nominated for award

**by Fire Chief Mike Harris**

*Directorate of Public Works*

At Kensington and Maxwell streets in Colorado Springs on April 19, Fort Carson Fire and Emergency Services HazMat 32 was called for assistance by the El Paso County Sheriff's Office Hazardous Materials Team, to help with removal and recovery of 150-pound pressurized cylinders stored in a building destroyed by fire.

Within the building were twenty 150-pound cylinders that were full. These cylinders had been stored for more than 10 years by the local water treatment facility. Sixteen of the 20 cylinders had ruptured and released their product, which was mostly consumed by the fire.

Three firefighters were exposed to dangerous chemicals during the battle in order to save the structure and were taken to the hospital with varying degrees of respiratory complications. Of the 16 ruptured cylinders, four had ruptured through their sidewalls and the others ruptured through their fusible plug.

After the fire was out, cleanup contractors determined that four of the remaining cylinders still contained their product. As the contractors attempted to load these compromised cylinders, they decided the risk was too high as the containers were too volatile because of the intense flame and heat of the fire, so they called 9-1-1.

After assessing the situation, fire fighters determined there were two choices: one; destroy

the containers in-place with high explosives; or two; over-pack the cylinders with a specialized containment apparatus and remove them to a more suitable location for destruction.

In light of the potential impact and the high degree of exposure risk to the community, it was determined by the incident command staff to go with the second option if a specialized containment system, called a cylinder over-pack coffin, could be obtained.

El Paso County Sheriff's resource officer spent more than two hours attempting to locate and acquire these coffins. The two nearest available were in Oklahoma.

Fort Carson Fire and Emergency Services, HazMat, acting as the operation safety officer, contacted the Fort Carson Emergency Communications Center. Dispatcher Kris Miller was given the task of locating the coffins closer to the site.

If the coffins could not be obtained, the operation was going to require a mass evacuation of people, the closure of Interstate 25 and State Highway 83 for a significant period of time.

Miller located two of the required coffins locally and coordinated their delivery to the site. Within

another 30 minutes, Miller had located a third in the Denver area, which the Colorado State Patrol escorted to the scene.

Due to Miller's professional attitude and experience, the situation was successfully mitigated without impact to the public or community. Without her actions, the entire operation, the community and the responders, would have faced a sensitive and dangerous situation. The outcome would have been difficult to predict, as well as the full impact to the environment, the community and the safety of the response personnel on scene.

Miller has been nominated for an award as the Dispatcher of the Quarter for her quick and professional response to a highly volatile situation.

Due to her actions, the situation was safely mitigated without incident and there were no environmental impacts to the surrounding area or to public safety.



**Miller**

**Has someone in your organization recently received kudos?  
Contact Mountaineer staff at  
526-4144 or e-mail  
[Mountaineereditor@carson.army.mil](mailto:Mountaineereditor@carson.army.mil).**

# *Don't let the flu get you down this year, be prepared*

*Evans Army Community Hospital*

It's almost that time of year again — flu season. The aches, pains, fever and sniffles are at your doorstep, just looking for a way to penetrate your defenses. How concerned should you be? How does the flu cause your symptoms? How can you protect yourself and/or your unit? Are you especially at risk?

What causes the flu? The influenza virus invades the cells of your respiratory tract to replicate and spread, causing what we commonly know as “the flu.” Once exposed, a person usually experiences a runny nose and sore throat because of the damage the virus does to cells in those areas. Additionally, headaches, fever and soreness may occur as a result of your body producing chemicals in your blood, sending signals to boost your immune system. The immune system produces antibodies that are targeted toward the influenza virus and they help clear the virus from your body.

Why should you be concerned? The flu not only causes you to feel terrible and miss work or school, but it can cause significant illness and even death. In fact, every year, on average, 36,000 people die from the flu in the United States, according to the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Those who die usually have other medical problems that are worsened by the flu, but not always. This is why you should have a healthy respect for the influenza virus.

What should you do if you suspect you have the flu? If you have symptoms for more than two or three days, it is wise to see a doctor. He or she can diagnose your ailment and help you to feel better with the least amount of worry. Be sure to cover your coughs and sneezes, and practice good hand washing.

So, how can you get the flu each year? Surprisingly you are not being infected with the same virus each year. First you must realize that “flu symptoms” can be caused by a variety of infections or allergies. While the influenza virus

might seem to be the most likely cause, it might be just a common cold. Additionally, there are many different strains of the virus that circulate throughout the world. In fact, the influenza virus possess a tremendous ability to change so as to get past the body's first defenses.

Who is at an increased risk for complications from the flu? The risk depends on your age, your health and your job. The CDC has identified at-risk populations. These include:

- People aged 50 and over
- Children 6-59 months of age
- Adults and children with certain chronic medical conditions
- Pregnant women
- Household contacts or caretakers of persons at high risk for influenza complications (above listed groups)
- Household contacts or caretakers of children less than 6 months of age



## Eagle Scout Soldier's son earns highest rank at 13

**Story and photo by Rebecca E. Tonn**  
*Mountaineer staff*

Summer conjures images of teens sleeping in, watching TV and playing hours of video games. Not for every teen, though. Jared Stoltz, 13, son of Lt. Col. Daniel Stoltz, commander of 3rd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group, and wife, Amy, spent his summer raising \$2,700 for the Urban Peak homeless shelter for teens in Colorado Springs. In accordance with strict Boy Scout regulations, Jared designed his volunteering and fund-raising project to earn his Eagle Scout rank at a young age. Boy Scouts have until their 18th birthday to fulfill the requirements for Eagle Scout.

"I'm thankful that he's always stayed motivated. Especially since we move so much," said his mom, committee chairperson for his troop. Jared has already earned 34 merit badges — only 21 are required for the Eagle Scout rank. "If he signs up (for a merit badge) he's not allowed to quit," said his dad, assistant scout master for the troop.

Jared demonstrated his leadership by organizing the project and urging his fellow scouts to volunteer at the shelter and ask their churches, local businesses, family and friends for donations. He had a representative from the shelter speak to the troop about the teens' need for dress clothes

for interviews, toiletries, suitcases and food. He also sent letters to the scouts and their parents, detailing his goals and asking for increased participation. Jared's goal of purchasing 20 necessity kits for the teen shelter, a \$250 value, was surpassed beyond his expectations.

Scouting has taught Jared lessons that translate into real life. "I'm a baby sitter, and I've had incidents of (children) bleeding and (having) bumped heads, and I didn't go into a panic," Jared explained. When he found two dogs running loose in his neighborhood — the owners were not home — he caught them and put them back in the yard. "I saw (that) the gate was broken, so I lashed the board with rope and tied it to a post," he said.

Jared started as a Wolf Scout in Germany, at age 7. Now he is with Troop 2, the oldest active troop west of the Mississippi, which meets at and is sponsored by First Presbyterian Church, downtown Colorado Springs. "It's a boy-run troop," Jared said, proudly.

Jared presented the money on Sept. 11 to John McIlwee, executive director of Urban Peak Colorado Springs, said Jared's dad.

His parents, of course, are pleased. "We wanted him to make Eagle before his dad is deployed (this spring)," said his mom. It seems as though Jared had his own schedule in mind.



*Jared will receive his Eagle Scout award at an Eagle Ceremony, Oct. 21, at Soldier's Memorial Chapel.*

## Flu

From Page 17

• Healthcare workers

If you belong to one of these groups or you could transmit influenza to someone who is in one of these groups, you should get the flu vaccine.

How do you protect yourself? Vigilance is your first defense. Because the flu spreads through the air from coughing and sneezing, you should limit your contact with sick individuals.

It is also important to wash your hands frequently to decrease your chances of touching objects or people that are infected. Vaccination is your second defense.

The flu shot contains killed virus particles from the three most likely strains of the influenza virus that the CDC predicts will affect the United States.

The vaccination is not all-inclusive because it is possible to be infected with a strain that you were not vaccinated against. The flu vaccination will teach your immune system to recognize and destroy the virus before it makes you sick.

Why should you get the vaccine? It will protect you and those around you because you won't spread the virus. This is called "herd immunity." The influenza vaccine can prevent 70-90 percent of influenza-like illnesses caused by influenza viruses.

Are there any side effects associated with the vaccine? Side effects are possible, but serious ones are extremely rare. You could experience soreness at the vaccination site, feel feverish or have muscle pain.

You cannot get the flu by getting the vaccination because the vaccine contains killed virus, which is not capable of causing infection. These side effects, if experienced, usually last only a couple of days at most. An allergic reaction, either on the skin or throughout the body, is possible, but rare. The advantage of getting the vaccination vastly outweighs the chance of having such a reaction.

One final concern that some pregnant women have is whether the vaccination can harm their fetuses. While it is true that the vaccine contains a small amount of preservative containing mercury, a heavy metal, there is no evidence to suggest this small amount causes birth defects or developmental delays.

Make sure you know when the flu shots are being administered for your unit or in your area.

Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or call the Fort Carson Flu Hotline at 526-6422. The *Mountaineer* will post information as it becomes available.

# Training the 'Eyes and Ears' of the command

by Douglas M. Rule

Fort Carson Public Affairs Office

"You are the advocate for your community ... not the Terminator," were the words of Joey Bautista, Fort Carson Mayoral Program Coordinator, during the training for new village mayors Sept. 14.

Each of the villages in Fort Carson family housing has a mayor and some have deputy mayors as well. The job of the mayors is to be on the lookout for the Garrison Commander on quality-of-life issues and family housing.

"They are the eyes and ears of the garrison commander," said Bautista. "The number one issue for the mayors is to uphold the quality-of-life for Soldiers and families."

As part of their training, the mayors and deputy mayors are briefed by those whom they will be the liaison for their village residents: GMH Military Family Housing, the Provost Marshal Office, Fort Carson Veterinary Services, Army Community Service, Child and Youth Services, and the ACS Family Advocacy and Financial Awareness Programs.

Early on, mayors are instructed in what is their responsibility and what isn't. Lynn Rivera, GMH Military Family Housing Community Manager, said that too often problems are brought to the wrong contact. For instance, GMH does deal with problems of compliance, such as unmown yards, unauthorized air conditioners and inappropriate watering. But too often they get called in to resolve neighbor problems or activities that are inappropriate for their level of involvement.

"Think of us the same way you would an off-post

landlord. A landlord wouldn't about tenants' personal affairs. Take that up the chain of command if it is necessary," said Rivera.

She also stressed to the mayors not to keep important issues, like burned out street lights, until the monthly mayors meetings. Those meetings, she stressed, should be reserved for issues of importance to all villages and that safety issues should be taken care of right away.

The mayors were elected last month through elections held by ACS. The mayors are all volunteers, donating their time and services to the community. In return, Fort Carson recognizes the services they provide. For all the mayors, there are certificates of appreciation for just basic service, extending to the Columbine Award of Excellence, Award for Exemplary Volunteer Service and Volunteer of the Year award. Military personnel are also eligible for Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medals, the equivalent of an Army Commendation Medal.

There is also a Kit Carson Award, an on-the-spot recognition of unusual service. Bautista mentioned that several years ago, when there was a fire in housing, one of the mayors mobilized the community to help out the family in need. As Bautista reminded the mayors, the program is "neighbors helping neighbors."



Joey Bautista, Fort Carson Mayoral Program Coordinator, briefs new mayors on their duties and responsibilities at a special meeting at the Army Community Service Family Readiness Center.

Sgt. First Class Mitchelene Bigman, 68th Corps Support Battalion, is a first time deputy mayor. She arrived recently to Fort Carson from Germany via Iraq. She is impressed with the housing and the mayor's program in the short time she has been here.

"It is great to have this available," she said. "It's all about taking care of everyone."

Bautista added that some of the suggestions that have come up through the mayor's program have helped to make the quality-of-life better for families. He said that the garrison commander's office and GMH are looking into the possibility of whole-house air conditioning for all houses on post.



# Pet Show was a barking good time

Story and photos Rebecca E. Tonn  
Mountaineer Staff

Fort Carson's semi-annual Pet Show was held Sept. 9 at the Fort Carson Post Exchange. Shame on you if you slept in and missed your chance to show off Fido and Fifi in their best Halloween outfits or doing their favorite trick (which only a pet-parent can love). It's hard to say who was cuter—all the children cheering or the pets strutting their stuff. Chihuahuas mingled with Weimaraners, German shepherds and the occasional cockatoo or guinea pig, and the kittens wisely stayed out of their way.

Joey Bautista, Installation Volunteer Coordinator, was master of ceremonies and five village mayors judged. Categories were: Best Puppy, Best Cat, Best Trick, Pet/Owner Look-alike, Most Unusual and Best Halloween Costume—which showcased compliant pets, willing to be stuffed into what amounted to doll or baby clothes.

The Mutt Masters School for Dogs was on hand to offer behavior modification classes and grooming. Lucky Dog Resort and Training School conducted an on-stage dog obedience demonstration, using treats as positive reinforcement. Colbert's Photography offered on-site photos for pets and owners, and the Food Court hosted a sidewalk barbecue.

Valor, a 4-month-old black German shepherd, owned by 1st Sgt. Ed Rossman, 59th Military Police Company, over-

whelmed the competition with three awards: 1st place Most Unusual, 2nd place Best Puppy and 2nd place Best Trick. Zoey, a 3-year-old Pomeranian, owned by Marianne and her husband, Staff Sgt. Anthony Long, IRT Company, stole the show, twirling across the stage in her pink tutu. Toby, a 5-year-old dachshund, owned by family member Tina Falcetti, waddled his way in a cowboy outfit, to second place in the Best Halloween Costume category.

If you missed all the excitement, keep a lookout in the Mountaineer for the next Semi-Annual Pet Show, coming this spring. As you know, every dog, or cat, has his or her day, and you owe it to your pets to give them a fighting chance.



Gunner, a 9-month-old miniature Old English bulldog, was all fired up and ready to go before the pet show. Alas, winning ribbons is hard work, and afterwards, he was doggone tired.



Nancy Watkins practices mimicking her 40-year-old Goffin cockatoo's expression, for the look-alike contest.



Joey Bautista, master of ceremonies, asks Debbie Genz, 14, what makes her guinea pig so unusual. "Hmmp, as you can see, I'm not a dog," replied Mr. Hugg-a-bugg.



Andrew Cyprian holds an 8-week-old kitten given to him and sister, Kaitlyn, at the pet show, by a young friend. They promptly named him Biggie Small, and yes, mom, Connie, actually let them keep him.



Beth Genz, 19, snuggles with Mr. Hugg-a-bugg, a guinea pig, who declined to give his age in mixed company.



Laurel Lee, 10, cuddles Chi, her 9-month-old female fawn-colored Chihuahua, who was not eager to play with the bigger dogs.



Clover, a 4-year-old Hungarian kuvasz, is elegant in her gypsy costume, with owner Milli Goodman, complementarily dressed. Lady Grey, her 3-year-old Himalayan, sniffed delicately, and let it be known that she has a penchant for cat-only pet shows.



## Maroon Bells/Aspen Colorado

### FALL COLORS PHOTOGRAPHY TRIP

With local photographer John Shaffner

**Dates:**  
**Friday Sept. 29 - Sunday Oct. 1st**

**Cost: \$125**  
Includes daily photography instruction and seminars, transportation, food, tent, camping sites, guided day hikes and unparalleled views!

**T**he Maroon Bells, located near beautiful Aspen, Colorado, is known for vibrant Fall colors surrounding breathtaking vistas.

Local professional photographer John Shaffner will accompany us on this unique trip to offer tips and techniques to help you capture beautiful pictures. His professional insight and vast knowledge of the local area are sure to make this a trip to remember.

Grab your digital or film camera and a pair of hiking shoes, and get ready to capture one of Colorado's best treasures on film!



Trip hosted by APE  
Point of Contact: Trevor McConnell

**526-5176**



Come enjoy the breathtaking, 18-hole championship golf course, located at 7800 Titus Blvd, near Evans Hospital. Year round golf is available and group and private lessons can be scheduled by calling 719-526-4102. See you on the course!



Join us for lunch at Mulligans Grill,  
**Monday - Friday, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**



Turkey Creek Ranch  
Fort Carson, Colorado



### Saddle up for a trail ride:

Horses head down the trail five times a day Wednesday through Sunday. Trail rides are for riders 7 years of age or older.

### Put your Buckaroo on a pony:

Young children ages 2 - 9 can ride for 10 minute increments to fit their attention span. Ponies are available Wednesday through Sunday from 1100 - 1500.

**Turkey Creek Ranch**

719-526-3905

The United States Army Community and Family Support Center Presents

## The United States Army Soldier Show 2006



**526-4494**

An Army Entertainment Production

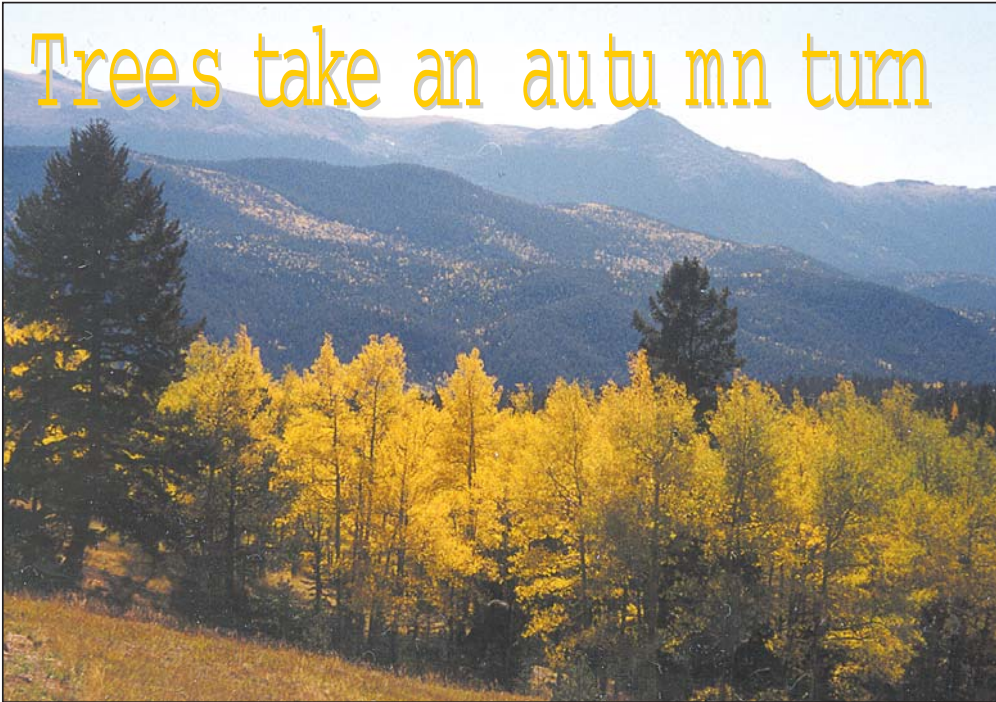


No Federal Endorsement Implied

Time & Date: 7:00 p.m. - Saturday, 30 Sept., and 2:00 p.m. - Sunday, 1 Oct.

Location: McMahon Theatre - No tickets required. FREE and open to the public.





Autumn season was in full splendor last year at Mueller State Park.

**Story and photos by Nel Lampe**  
*Mountaineer staff*

Prospectors once came to Colorado to find gold — the real stuff, valuable stuff.

Now, the gold being sought is in the trees, mostly aspen trees. Each fall, Colorado citizens search for gold leaves.

Although Colorado leaves aren't the deep red colors prominent in New England or other parts of the country, the aspen trees turn Colorado hillsides a glorious gold, with occasional orange or red touches.

Colorado's fall season can be spectacular, but it is short.

Aspen color is best at higher altitudes, 8,000 feet or more, where fall usually comes earlier than in the Colorado Springs area.



Trees in fall colors are on post; this row of trees is by DiRaimando Clinic.



Trees in fall color are scattered among evergreens around the gazebo at Green Mountain Falls, just off Highway 24 west, a few miles west of Colorado Springs.

According to scientists, leaves always have the reds and yellows, which are covered up by the green. When the leaves' chlorophyll begins to recede, the yellows, golds and oranges begin to show.

The aspens' fall color show lasts only about three weeks, usually the last week or two of September and the first week of October — depending on weather conditions.

Some of the best Colorado fall viewing areas are near Aspen, Vail, Estes Park, Leadville, Telluride, Ouray or Durango, as well as almost any mountain pass. However, trips to those places might require a five to nine hour round trip, and perhaps an overnight stay.

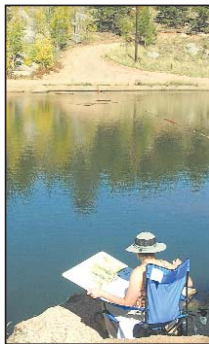
But, a day trip to see fall color can be accomplished in the Pikes Peak region.

A very popular trip with local citizens is the drive to Cripple Creek; take Highway 24 west of Colorado

Spring, past Woodland Park to Divide, then turn south on Highway 67. There should be color in the trees at Mueller State Park (there's an entry fee of \$5), about three miles down the road. Go another 15 miles toward Cripple Creek. Soon, the mountainsides should be covered with aspen trees in various shades of gold.

Or, take Highway 24 farther west to Lake George, then try the road to Tarryall Reservoir for some golden aspen viewing.

Farish Recreation Area is usually a great place to see aspens. Farish is particularly picturesque when its three lakes are framed by golden aspen trees. Farish is the Air Force Academy's recreation area, which can be used by Department of Defense employees and Soldiers. There's a day-use fee. It is near Woodland Park, and is reached by turning right at the traffic light just



Places to see in the Pikes Peak area.

# Happenings



## Autumn

From Page 25

before Woodland Park's McDonald's. Turn right onto Baldwin Street which becomes Rampart Range Road. Continue about three miles and turn right at the "Y" intersection onto Loy Creek Road and follow the Farish signs.

Aspen trees should be in full splendor along Gold Camp Road, which is open from behind the Broadmoor Hotel (take Old Stage Road until it becomes Gold Camp Road) and leads to Cripple Creek. It's a rough, bumpy, unpaved road, built on the former rail bed of the "short line" railroad. It is one of the most scenic sights in the Pikes Peak area, but it's a rough drive.

Some people drive up Pikes Peak Highway to see fall color. Take Highway 24 and follow the signs at the small town of Cascade. Pass Santa's Workshop at North Pole and go to the Pikes Peak Highway toll booth. The toll is \$10 for anyone over 16 to go to the top — or a



Aspen trees changing to gold are scattered among evergreens by a lake at Farish Recreational Area near Woodland Park last Fall. Farish may be used by Soldiers, their families and Army employees.

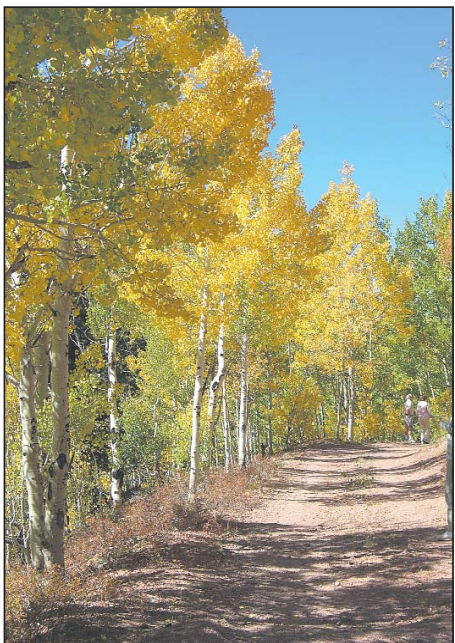
maximum of \$35 per car. It's 19 miles to the summit, mostly graveled road, and a round trip takes two or three hours. The view from the top can be spectacular on a clear day. But, the toll is only \$3 to take Pikes Peak Highway six miles to the reservoirs and it's all paved road. There should be trees in autumn splendor along the way.

Roads from Cañon City provide another view of the aspen. Take Highway 9 (past the Royal Gorge Bridge on Highway 50) following the signs to Guffey and Victor. Or, take Highway 67 north, from Cañon City to Cripple Creek on the road known as Phantom Canyon Road. The road is on the old railway bed which ran between Cañon City and Cripple Creek. As is the case with many unpaved roads, it is quite rough, and is best suited for four-wheel drive vehicles.

Other places to see aspen are in the San Isabel National Forest — take Highway 115 south to Florence, then follow highway 67 until it intersects with Highway 165. Take that highway to San Isabel Lake, passing Bishop's Castle along the way.

The fall color show is just beginning in the Colorado Springs area. Local sites for color include North Cheyenne Cañon, Garden of the Gods, Bear Creek Park and other local parks.

Just taking a drive around post can



People walk through a stand of golden aspen trees last fall at a pull-out along Highway 67 on the way to Cripple Creek.



The Durango-Silverton steam train passes through trees in fall color near Durango.

provide some fall color sighting, such as near the headquarters building and DiRiamando Clinic. And the drive to Turkey Creek Ranch is colorful when the scrub oak turns red and orange.

To check on fall colors in state parks call (303) 866-3437 or go online at [www.parks.state.co.us/fall/index.asp](http://www.parks.state.co.us/fall/index.asp). To check on fall colors in the forests, call the Forest Service at (800) 354-4595 or [www.fs.fed.us/r2/colors](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/colors).



In September 2005, aspen trees in shades of yellow cover hillsides near old gold mines by Highway 67 en route to Cripple Creek. The Rock Mountains' Collegiate Range is in the distance.

### Just the Facts

- **Travel time:** varies
- **For ages:** all
- **Type:** autumn color
- **Fun factor:** ★★★★★  
(Out of 5 stars)
- **Wallet damage:** free-\$  
\$ = Less than \$20  
\$\$ = \$21 to \$40  
\$\$\$ = \$41 to \$60  
\$\$\$\$ = \$61 to \$80  
(Based on a family of four)

## Get Out!

### Academy concerts

**The Air Force Academy concert season** includes the Five Browns today; "I Can't Stop Loving You," Oct. 13; The Lettermen's Christmas Show, Dec. 1; Bill Engvall, Feb. 10; "Wonderful Town," March 3; and Chip Davis and Mannheim Steamroller, May 4. Contact the Academy box office at 333-4497 for information. Shows are in Arnold Hall Theater.

### Fall Fest

**The annual Fall Fest is at Turkey Creek Ranch** Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. This year's theme is a traveling medicine show, with palm reading, magic, juggling and a traveling human circus. There'll be target shooting, hay rides and pony rides. Entry is free, but there's a small charge for some activities. For more information call 526-4494.

### Soldier Show

**The Soldier Show** will be in McMahon Theater Sept. 30 at 7 p.m., and Oct 1, at 2 p.m. Entrance is free, and tickets are not required. The Soldier Show is made up of talented Soldiers who have competed for positions as performers. The Soldier Show performs at Army posts around the world.

### Improv comedy

**Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood**, of "Whose Line is it Anyway?," present an evening of improvisational comedy Oct. 20 at the Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade. Call 520-SHOW for information and tickets.

### Fine Arts Center theater

**"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change,"** a presentation by the Fine Arts Center's Repertory Theater, opens Sept. 29 in the theater at 30 W. Dale St. Productions are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are available at the box office, 634-5583. The production runs through Oct. 22.

### Oktoberfest

**The annual Oktoberfest at Norris Penrose Stadium** is Sept. 28-30 and Oct. 6-7, and features German brats, beer and live oompah bands. Activities for children include jump houses and face painting. Admission is free for military, \$5 for adults and anyone under 21 gets in free. Norris Penrose Stadium is at 1045 W. Rio Grande St., between 8th and 21st streets. There's free parking. Call 635-1101, ext. 2 for more information.

### Halloween activities

It's that time of year again — time for spooks and goblins.

**Mind Seizure Haunted House** — the city's oldest haunted house is at the Flea Market, 5225 E. Platte Ave., about a mile

east of the Citadel Shopping Center and the management recommends it for ages 12 and over. Mind Seizure opens Sept. 29-30, at 7 p.m. After opening weekend, it's open Thursday-Sunday each week and daily Oct. 26-31. Admission is \$13; military get a 50 percent discount on Sunday and Thursdays Oct 12-22. More information is at [www.mindseizurehauntedhouse.com](http://www.mindseizurehauntedhouse.com).

**Town of Terror** is the haunted house at Buckskin Joe, near the Royal Gorge Bridge. It is open Oct. 12-14, 18-22, 25-29. Learn more by going to [www.BuckskinJoe.com](http://www.BuckskinJoe.com) and clicking on "activities."

### Academy football

**The Air Force Academy Falcons football home schedule** includes New Mexico Sept. 30, Navy Oct. 7, Colorado State Oct. 12, Brigham Young University Oct. 28, Notre Dame Nov. 11 and Utah Nov. 18. Call the ticket office at 472-1895 or visit [www.GoAirForceFalcons.com](http://www.GoAirForceFalcons.com).

### Military Appreciation Day

**The Colorado Rockies and Qwest** present a military day at Coors Field Sept. 28, when the Rockies play the Los Angeles Dodgers at 1:05 p.m. Uniformed military personnel and veterans get complimentary tickets and can buy tickets for family and friends for \$6 each. To order tickets call Bobby Dicroce at (303) 312-2486. Tickets will be available at the will call windows at Coors Field; have identification.

**Editors note:** Check [www.carson.army.mil](http://www.carson.army.mil) for more information.





Courtesy photo

## Chile fest

*The Chile and Frijoles fest in Pueblo runs today-Sunday. The fest includes a farmer's market selling peppers grown in the Pueblo area. There also are food vendors, music, dancing, entertainment and an 1840s' style market, called a mercado, pictured above. Entry is free and it's in downtown Pueblo; take Interstate 25 south.*

## New Hazard

by James Boroch





# SPORTS & LEISURE

## Broncos honor military in home opener

Story and photos by  
Walt Johnson

*Mountaineer staff*

At 11 a.m. Sunday, Invesco Field at Mile High Stadium in Denver was nearly empty, save a group of service men and women representing the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines and members of the Denver Broncos organization.

The sounds of cadence broke the silence as members of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Forward), 4th Infantry Division, listened closely as Robert Gallegos (unit first sergeant) gave the troops instruction on their role in the pre-game ceremonies. The Broncos staff then briefed each service. After getting instructions, military members were ready to take part in opening-day ceremonies for the Denver Broncos as they prepared to meet the Kansas City Chiefs in the second week of action for the National Football League.

This day was special for the troops from Fort Carson because it was a year ago many of them were in Iraq supporting the nation's fight against terrorism and now they had a chance to participate in one of the things that makes the country great. This was an opportunity none of

the Soldiers wanted to pass up, Gallegos said.

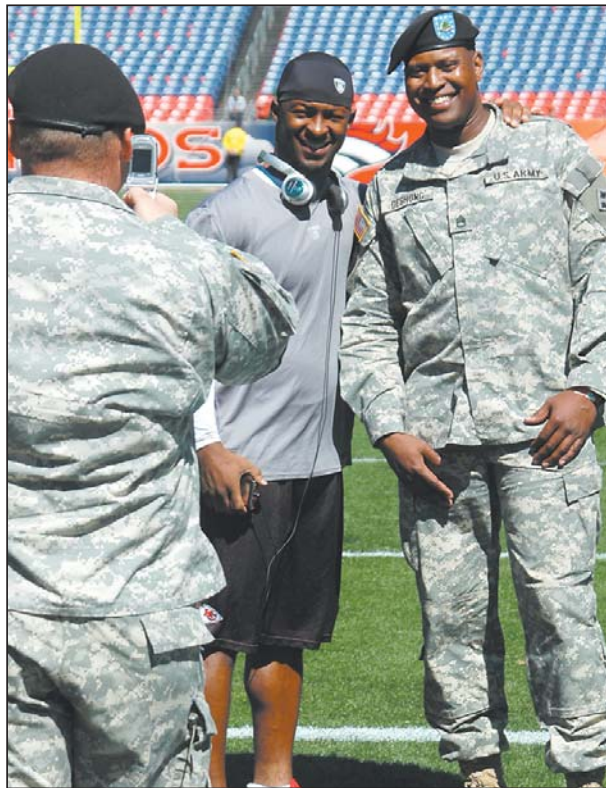
"This is a great opportunity (being part of the pre-game festivities) and the guys just love being here. When we were walking up to the stadium to get ready, there were people who were congratulating us and it made us feel so good to know that our work is appreciated. We want the people to see the pride that we have in serving our nation. All these guys volunteered to be here and they are proud to be here representing the Army today. It's also exciting because we have a number of people, including myself, that are from Colorado and it's good to be able to be a part of the Broncos' home opener. Being here is like a dream come true for some of us. It's great to be able to stand out on the field in front of Bronco fans representing the Army, the nation and Fort Carson," Gallegos said.

This was the second consecutive year Jeffrey Grissom has appeared at Invesco Field for a Broncos game, but unlike last year, this time he got to be there in person. Grissom was one of the people in Iraq last year who was able to send a message back that was

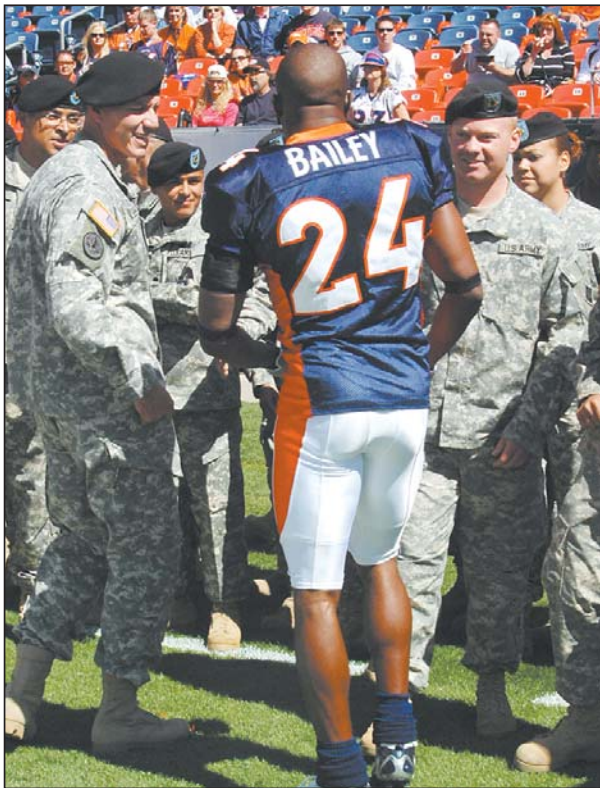
See **Broncos** on Page 43



Robert Gallegos, front, inspects the troops as they line up to prepare for the pre-game festivities at Invesco Field at Mile High Stadium in Denver Sunday for the Denver Broncos home opener against the Kansas City Chiefs.



Nick Deshong, right, poses for a photograph with Kansas City Chiefs wide receiver and kick-return specialist Dante Hall hours before the NFL game Sunday in Denver.



Denver Broncos cornerback Champ Bailey takes time from his pre-game warm-up to thank members of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Forward), 4th Infantry Division for their service before Sunday's NFL game.

## On the Bench

### Rockies, Qwest honor military Thursday at Coors Field

by **Walt Johnson**  
*Mountaineer staff*

**The Colorado Rockies and Qwest will present Qwest Military Day at Coors Field Thursday.**

The Rockies will be hosting the Los Angeles Dodgers in a 1:05 p.m. game that will feature special pre-game festivities, including a parade, fly-over, national anthem, color guard and ceremonial first pitch — all performed by uniformed military personnel and veterans. Additionally, commemorative dog tags will be handed out to the first 5,000 fans, compliments of "America Supports You."

According to the organizers, uniformed military personnel and veterans will be offered complimentary tickets and have the opportunity to participate in a pre-game parade.

Also, additional tickets are available for family and friends for \$6 each.

To order tickets call Bobby Dicroce at (303) 312-2486.

You can also fax an order by calling (303) 312-2219, e-mail orders to [dicroceb@coloradorockies.com](mailto:dicroceb@coloradorockies.com), or submit mail orders to CRBC, 2001 Blake Street, Denver, CO 80205, Attn: Bobby Dicroce.

All orders received by Sept. 15 will be mailed. For all late orders, tickets will be available for pickup only at the Coors Field will call windows on Blake Street between 20th and 21st streets. You will need a picture identification card to pick up your tickets at the Coors Field will call window.

**The quarterback dropped back to pass Saturday at Pershing Field on post and it was a sight that could not be repeated on the other two football fields or in any other game on post.**

The quarterback fired the ball up field to a covered receiver and the pass fell incomplete. The coach of the team encouraged his young gunslinger to keep throwing the ball and he couldn't have been more



Photo by Walt Johnson

### Madame quarterback

*Elizabeth, "Liz" Becker, 9, hands off to her team's running back during youth league action Saturday at Pershing Field on post.*





Photo by Walt Johnson

## Run to daylight

*Youth soccer players run to the ball during action Saturday at Pershing Field on post.*

## Bench

From Page 32

proud. The quarterback is Elizabeth "Liz" Becker, a young lady who makes her dad, who also happens to be her coach, very proud.

Becker is the only female quarterback in the youth center football program and she looks right at home handing off the ball or throwing a pass up field. That's because playing with the boys on a football field is nothing new to Becker who has the full support of her parents to play in the flag football league.

"She is daddy's little girl and she has always played with her brothers and me in the yard. She is still learning how to play football since she has only been playing catch in the backyard with her brothers and me. She can throw and she likes playing the game," Joseph Becker said. "We (his wife Sandra and he) didn't mind her playing flag football but that wasn't her first choice when it came to playing football. She was actually upset because she couldn't play

tackle football because she wanted to follow in dad's steps. She knows I played football and I am a big Steelers fan. She has actually taken after me and just wants to do the things that daddy did," Becker said.

"We made the decision not to let her play tackle football because we felt it wouldn't be good for her to be the only girl playing. But we are supportive of her playing flag football," Sandra said.

Joseph said he likes the way his daughter competes on the athletic fields and thinks it's a good thing for her to be a part of the flag football program.

Being the only female is not a source of concern for him because he knows she is doing something she enjoys doing.

"I'm excited that she likes sports as much as I do. She is a good competitor and she has played other sports like soccer.

"She tried cheerleading and she didn't like that. She's just a big tomboy and I don't mind that," he said with a smile.

## Week 3 Football

### College

1. Penn State vs. Ohio State
2. Air Force vs. Wyoming
3. Alabama vs. Arkansas
4. Army vs. Baylor
5. Notre Dame vs. Michigan State
6. USC vs. Arizona

## Pigskin Picks



**Nick Deshong**  
**2nd Brigade Combat Team**  
**(Forward), 4th Infantry Division**  
1. Ohio State, 2. Air Force,  
3. Alabama, 4. Army, 5. Notre Dame,  
6. USC, 7. Steelers, 8. Colts,  
9. Redskins, 10. Bears, 11. Panthers,  
12. Cardinals, 13. Seahawks, 14. Bills,  
15. Broncos, 16. Falcons



**Juan Godina**  
**2nd BCT (Fwd), 4th ID**  
1. Ohio State, 2. Air Force,  
3. Alabama, 4. Baylor, 5. Notre Dame,  
6. USC, 7. Steelers, 8. Jaguars,  
9. Redskins, 10. Bears, 11. Panthers,  
12. Rams, 13. Seahawks, 14. Bills,  
15. Broncos, 16. Saints



**Pat Philpot**  
**2nd BCT (Fwd), 4th ID**  
1. Ohio State, 2. Wyoming,  
3. Alabama, 4. Baylor, 5. Notre Dame,  
6. USC, 7. Bengals, 8. Colts,  
9. Texans, 10. Bears, 11. Panthers,  
12. Cardinals, 13. Giants, 14. Bills,  
15. Patriots, 16. Falcons



**Juventino Torres**  
**2nd BCT (Fwd), 4th ID**  
1. Ohio State, 2. Air Force,  
3. Alabama, 4. Army, 5. Notre Dame,  
6. USC, 7. Steelers, 8. Colts,  
9. Redskins, 10. Bears, 11. Panthers,  
12. Rams, 13. Seahawks, 14. Jets,  
15. Patriots, 16. Falcons

### NFL

7. Bengals vs. Steelers
8. Jaguars vs. Colts
9. Redskins vs. Texans
10. Bears vs. Vikings
11. Panthers vs. Bucs
12. Rams vs. Cardinals
13. Giants vs. Seahawks
14. Jets vs. Bills
15. Broncos vs. Patriots
16. Falcons vs. Saints





## *Mountaineer* **Athlete of the Week**



### **Robert Allen**

**Sports Position:** Sports official

**Military Status:** Retired Army

**What got you started in sports?**

When I was younger I got hurt playing football and my dad said I couldn't play anymore so I got interested in wrestling.

**What is your proudest personal moment in sports?**

My best personal sports moment occurred when I was in high school and we won a state wrestling championship. Our coach (Joe Witt) left us in mid season to take a coaching job at the University of Alabama and it was good for us to be able to win it for him. Winning the championship was our going away gift to him.

**What is your best moment in sports and why?**

My best moment in sports was when I wrestled for the World Class Athlete Program. I had to lose 23 pounds in a week to be able to go to the 2000 Olympic Trials Western Regional Qualifier. I went to the Western Regional Qualifier and I had one point scored on me for the whole competition.



## *Mountaineer High School Sports*

### **Trojans win!**

*Fountain-Fort Carson running back Jamal Johnson, right, sweeps around the right end and scores on a long touchdown run during action Saturday against Mitchell High School at Garry Berry Stadium in Colorado Springs. The Trojans won the game 49-6 to improve their season record to 3-0. The Trojans will host the Pine Creek Eagles today in a contest that starts at 7 p.m. and features the conferences' two 3-0 teams.*



Photo by Walt Johnson

## ***Mountaineer Football Standings***

### **American League**

Team Name	W	L
68th CSB	2	0
MEDDAC	2	0
2/360th	1	1
359th QM	1	1
230th Finance	0	2
759th MPS	0	2



### **National League**

Team Name	W	L
1st Mob	3	0
A Co, 2/4	2	1
183rd Maint	1	1
A Co, 1/67th	1	1
4th Engineers	1	2
43rd ASG	0	3

Photo by Walt Johnson

*Daniel Garcia, left, 59th Quartermaster Company, intercepts a ball in the end zone during action Sept. 13 at the Mountain Post Sports Complex.*

## *Mountaineer Varsity Sports*

### **Hoops practice**

*Members of the Fort Carson men's varsity basketball team get ready for upcoming league and area action during a practice session at the Garcia Physical Fitness Center. Basketball fans will want to make note the all-Army basketball team will be arriving at the Mountain Post Oct. 10 to prepare for the interservice competition that will be held at the Mountain Post's Special Events Center in November.*



Photo by Walt Johnson



## Broncos

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played on the big screen for Broncos fans and that earned his family a trip to a game last year. This time Grissom was able to say "thank you" to the fans himself by being part of the pre-game celebration.

"The public affairs officer came up to me in Iraq last year and said, 'how you would like to say go Broncos to the folks in Colorado?' and I said, 'sure.' The Broncos sent my family to the game and they sent us a DVD with the split screen with me saying 'go Broncos' and my wife in the stands.

"It was nice to see the community support my family got while I was in Iraq. I'm excited to be here today because last year I was in 114 degree weather in Iraq. It's great to be home and be around the people that come up to you to say, 'thanks for serving.' It's kind of overwhelming at times. I truly love the military and I love the country.

"Sometimes I want to say to people, 'thank you letting me serve in the military'

instead of them thanking me for being in the Army," Grissom said.

Derrick Meisenburg said he went to the game because he sees a similarity in what the NFL does for the country and what the Army and other branches of the service do to support the nation.

"I came out today because I wanted to represent the Army and support the NFL ... (those players) that come out and do their best in their jobs just like we do in our jobs. It's important to see people represent their profession.

"I volunteered for the Army because of September 11th and I want to be able to stand out here today and show people that there are good people that are willing to represent the country and the values it stands for," Meisenburg said.

At 2 p.m. the silence gave way to a raucous crowd that cheered wildly when the military formations came on the field for the opening ceremony. Front-row fans then thanked the Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines with applause and handshakes as they exited the field before the start of the game.



*Members of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Forward), 4th Infantry Division, joined Broncos fans at the Broncos barn to get in a pre-game meal before Sunday's NFL game.*